

## **Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact Grant (ECCS Impact) Overview**

The Division of Public Health's (DPH) Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) program collaborates with multiple sectors with a shared vision to develop seamless systems of care for children in the critical formative years from birth to age 8. Working with different systems such as health care providers, social services, child care and early childhood education programs, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems programs help children grow up healthy and ready to learn by addressing their physical, emotional and social health in a broad-based and coordinated way.

The purpose of the ECCS Impact grant is to enhance early childhood systems building and demonstrate improved outcomes in population-based children's developmental health and family well-being through the use of a Collaborative Innovation Improvement Network (CoIIN). CoIIN is a group of self-motivated people (or organization) with a collective vision enabled by the Web to collaborate in achieving a common goal by sharing ideas, information and work.

Children's developmental health includes surveillance, screening, referral (if necessary), and follow up to ensure linkages and early intervention services for children birth through kindergarten entry. The ECCS Impact grant also strengthens leadership and expertise in continuous quality improvement and support innovation, while achieving greater collective impact in EC systems at all levels.

The Health Resources and Services Administration grant will be awarded over a 5 year period at \$426,600 per year. The overall aim is for participating communities to show a 25% increase from baseline in age appropriate developmental skills among their community's 3 year olds over 60 months. The grant deadline is March 15. The grant project period is August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2021.

Grant recipients are required to identify one to five place-based communities in their state to participate in the (ECCS CoIIN). Place-based communities should be receiving home visiting services or in a Promise Zone. The ECCS CoIIN will be coordinated by an ECCS CoIIN Technical Assistance Center (ECCS CoIIN TAC) established through a cooperative agreement. The ECCS CoIIN TAC will provide intense targeted technical assistance to the ECCS Impact recipients and their identified place-based communities on CoIIN processes. Additionally, recipients need to identify an existing early childhood data system operating on a state-wide capacity to build the state EC data system to collect and report core processes and outcomes during the CoIIN process.

For its purposes, the ECCS program will collaborate with 2 communities or cohorts, one in Sussex County and the other in New Castle County. The first cohort will be a combined team of members of the Sussex County Health Promotion Coalition and the Sussex Early Childhood Council; the second cohort will be a combined team of members of six Readiness Teams in the Route 13 and Route 9 corridors in New Castle County. The ECCS initiative will:

- Increase developmental screening and linkages to services by building partnerships with child-serving providers to increase their awareness of screening and referral services.
- Collaborate with early intervention programs to ensure children less than 3 years identified at risk for developmental delays are referred to appropriate services before age 3 to promote early detection and intervention.
- Strengthen follow-up services to ensure children identified at risk for delays are actually referred for and receiving early intervention services.